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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Excerpt from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on its annual session for 1995**

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* E/1995/100.

** The present document is a mimeographed excerpt from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on the work of its annual session 1995 (5-16 June 1995). The final report will be combined with the reports of the three regular sessions held in 1995 (10-13 January (DP/1995/9); 3-7 April (DP/1995/16)); and September and issued in final form as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 14 (E/1995/34/Rev.1).

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Part one of the present excerpt from the report of the annual session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund contains the decisions adopted by the Board at its annual session 1995.

Part two contains chapter IV of the annual report, which presents the comments of the Executive Board and decision 95/17 on the reports submitted to the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199 as well as to the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit on Social Development, submitted in compliance with paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/33.

The reports of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Programme are made available to the Economic and Social Council under the symbols E/1995/55 and E/1995/89, respectively.

Part one

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND OF THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND AT ITS ANNUAL SESSION 1995

NEW YORK, 5-16 JUNE 1995

95/14. Implementation of decision 94/25: Assistance to Rwanda

95/15. Programme priorities and future directions of the United Nations Population Fund in the light of the International Conference on Population and Development

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95/21. Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s

95/22. Future of the United Nations Development Programme: Initiatives for change

95/23. Successor programming arrangements

95/24. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 1995

95/14. Implementation of decision 94/25: Assistance to Rwanda

The Executive Board

1. Approves the continued implementation of decision 94/25, allowing for flexibility in sectoral expenditure of resources from Rwanda's third country programme resources and for overall expenditures of up to $7.8 million, to enable UNFPA to continue to respond to the evolving needs of the Government of Rwanda for reconstruction and development.

8 June 1995

95/15. Programme priorities and future directions of the United Nations Population Fund in the light of the International Conference on Population and Development

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report contained in document DP/1995/25 and Corr.1;

2. Requests that the future programme of assistance of the United Nations Population Fund adhere to the principles contained in chapter II of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

3. Supports the broad outline of the future programme of assistance of the United Nations Population Fund, which must be implemented in full accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

4. Endorses the core programme areas of reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy and requests the Executive Director to concentrate United Nations Population Fund assistance within the core areas while stressing that population policies are an integral part of a strategy for sustainable development and the need for the United Nations Population Fund to cooperate with other partners in formulating its strategies;

5. Takes note of the approach proposed for the allocation of resources; invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to refine the proposed approach, based on the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, including paragraphs 14.14, 14.15 and 14.16, as well as on other relevant qualitative and quantitative indicators, and taking fully into account the views expressed by delegations during the present session and the need to give special attention to the least developed countries and Africa; and to report thereon to the Executive Board at its first regular session 1996;

6. Recalls Executive Board decision 95/11 and, in the context of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, stresses the importance of incorporating HIV/AIDS aspects in activities of the United Nations Population Fund;

7. Requests the Executive Director to include reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in her annual report to the Executive Board;

8. Also requests that the United Nations Population Fund submit to the Executive Board at its first regular session 1996 a brief background note on the issue of whether the Board should consider becoming a member of the United Nations Children's Fund/World Health Organization Joint Committee on Health Policy;

9. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a draft mission statement for the United Nations Population Fund based on the report contained in document DP/1995/25 and Corr.1, taking fully into account the discussion in the Executive Board, including the comments made on further refinement and definition of the different programme areas and on the use of terminology, and the present decision.

14 June 1995

95/16. UNFPA work plan and request for programme expenditure authority

The Executive Board

1. Endorses the Executive Director's programme resource planning proposals set out in paragraphs 7 to 15 of document DP/1995/26 while taking fully into account paragraph 4 of decision 95/15;

2. Approves the request for 1996 programme expenditure authority at a level equal to new programmable resources for 1996, currently estimated at $263 million;

3. Endorses the use of the following estimates of new programmable resources from regular resources for the 1997-1999 period: $280 million for 1997; $298 million for 1988; and $319 million for 1999;

4. Also endorses the use of the following estimates of new programmable resources from multilateral and bilateral funding: $15 million per year for the years 1996-1999.

8 June 1995

95/17. UNFPA/UNDP: Reports to the Economic and Social Council: Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199

The Executive Board

1. Transmits the reports from the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council together with the comments of the Executive Board;

2. Requests the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to ensure that future reports on the implementation of the triennial policy review address more thoroughly problems and opportunities that have been identified, particularly at the field level, and contain any appropriate recommendations and requests for guidance from the Executive Board;

3. Further requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, together with the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, to consider producing a common report on the implementation of the triennial policy review for both the UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF Executive Boards, which should contain both a common section and sections by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, respectively.

8 June 1995

95/18. United Nations Development Fund for Women

The Executive Board

1. Authorizes the United Nations Development Fund for Women to proceed with its programme in keeping with the projections described in table 3 of document DP/1995/33 subject to the following conditions:

(a) Administrative expenditure should be reduced further to a level more consistent with its project activities while bearing in mind the need to retain a critical capacity for the Fund;

(b) Income projections should be kept under review and necessary steps should be taken and reported to the Board if the projections fall 10 per cent below the levels contained in table 3 of DP/1995/33;

(c) Effective financial and programme management procedures for both the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, including those recommended by the internal and external auditors, have been put in place as soon as possible and reported to the Executive Board not later than 1 January 1996;

2. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women to implement the recommendations in the Management Letter of the Board of Auditors and to report on their implementation to the Board in the reports called for in paragraph 13 of the decision;

3. Also requests the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women to take personal charge of the periodic review of the financial statements identified in paragraph 59 of document DP/1995/33;

4. Authorizes the use of UNDP funds to cover, up to the limits specified in paragraph 5 below, the UNIFEM cash shortfall and requests the Administrator to establish for this purpose an overdraft facility for UNIFEM on the basis of the interfund accounts and to charge interest costs to UNIFEM for the use of this facility on a basis that will result in no gain or loss for UNDP;

5. Decides that this overdraft facility cannot be used for any new commitments incurred by UNIFEM after 1 January 1995, and that its utilization for prior commitments will be limited to the period 1995-1997, to a maximum drawdown of $4.5 million, with the proviso that the Administrator will report to it immediately if drawdowns exceed $3 million;

6. Suspends the requirements for the operational reserve until such time as it decides that the financial situation of UNIFEM is on a sound basis subject to the following conditions:

(a) That UNIFEM operates on a full funding basis for all new commitments incurred after 1 January 1995, ensuring that the total amount of these new commitments is to be covered from its own resources, while recognizing that at the same time it may draw down on the UNDP overdraft facility, as required, within the limits specified in paragraph 4 above, to cover financial obligations incurred prior to 1 January 1995;

(b) That UNIFEM continues to calculate and report to the Board a notional operational reserve in order to ensure financial transparency;

7. Views with concern the absence of a satisfactory and timely explanation of the way the operational reserve was drawn down during 1994 and requests the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Development Fund for Women to provide one as soon as possible;

8. Decides that neither partial funding authority nor the operational reserve mechanism will be restored to UNIFEM until relevant control mechanisms have been thoroughly reviewed and new procedures have been put in place that will ensure, inter alia, the accurate calculation and regular updating of reserve levels, and the establishment of a system to provide sufficient early warning of any possible future drawdowns on the reserve;

9. Requests the Administrator to explore possibilities for the assumption and/or co-financing of relevant UNIFEM projects by UNDP, within the plans and priorities of UNDP and recipient Governments;

10. Stresses the importance of establishing and maintaining a strengthened UNDP/UNIFEM interface, and requests the Administrator and the Director of UNIFEM to include information on this interface in their future reports to the Executive Board;

11. Endorses the Administrator's proposal to outpost one staff member from the UNDP Division of Finance to UNIFEM to assist in the monitoring of project funds and who will report to both UNDP/DOF and UNIFEM, without prejudice to the autonomy of UNIFEM, and without increasing UNIFEM administrative expenditures;

12. Requests the Administrator to bring its new Project Financial Management System online as soon as possible, incorporating enhancements to permit the recording of pipeline activity and shadow budgets, and calls for the Project Financial Management System to be established, at the earliest opportunity, as a common information system for both UNDP and UNIFEM, replacing the UNIFEM Budget Management System;

13. Also requests the Administrator to inform it of the measures taken once accountability for UNIFEM's current financial situation has been determined and of the steps taken to establish clear lines of accountability both within UNIFEM and between UNDP and UNIFEM;

14. Further requests the Administrator and the Director of UNIFEM to provide oral or written progress reports, as appropriate, on the implementation of the present decision to each session of the Executive Board in 1995 and 1996.

14 June 1995

95/19. Technical cooperation among developing countries

The Executive Board

1. Endorses the New Directions for technical cooperation among developing countries as recommended by the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/96;

2. Reaffirms the important role that the new directions for TCDC can play in increasing the use of both technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries as dynamic instruments for expanded South-South cooperation;

3. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to promote a more strategic orientation for technical cooperation among developing countries activities by focusing the present programme on high-impact activities;

4. Takes appropriate action with regard to the promotion and implementation of technical cooperation among developing countries activities pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41, which calls on all parties in the development effort to give the technical cooperation among developing countries option "first consideration" in technical cooperation activities;

5. Invites the Administrator to ensure that the Special Unit for TCDC plays a proactive role within the United Nations system in an effort to expand the application of technical cooperation among developing countries and effectively implement the strategy for new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries while endeavouring to reduce the delivery cost of future programmes for technical cooperation among developing countries.

14 June 1995

95/20. United Nations Population Fund: Institutional arrangements

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to designate UNFPA resident country directors as UNFPA representatives;

2. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council, during its operational activities segment, and the General Assembly endorse the agreement on the understanding that the United Nations Population Fund will take measures to enhance cooperation with and active support for resident coordinators for operational activities of the United Nations, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 47/199 and on the understanding that the agreement will not result in increased administrative expenditure for the United Nations Population Fund.

14 June 1995

95/21. Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report on the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs of Developing Countries in the 1990s contained in document DP/1995/24/Part II;

2. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1995 a proposal, in the context of the intercountry programme of the United Nations Population Fund, for the continuation of the Global Initiative beyond 1995, including therein an outline of the objectives, modalities and procedures for a possible future global contraceptive arrangement;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board at its first regular session 1996 a report containing a reappraisal of the future role of the United Nations Population Fund in assessing and meeting the unmet needs for contraceptives and the requirements for logistics management.

14 June 1995

95/22. Future of the United Nations Development Programme: Initiatives for change

The Executive Board

1. Notes the progress that has been made following its decision 94/14;

2. Welcomes the process of consultation mentioned by the Administrator in his statement on 13 June 1995 in view of further clarifying and refining the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the light of the Initiatives for change, and requests the Administrator to report to the Executive Board;

3. Urges the United Nations Development Programme through the Initiatives for change process, in the framework of the goals and priority areas supported by the Board in decision 94/14 and given poverty elimination as the overriding priority in the programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, to concentrate on areas where it has demonstrable comparative advantage, in particular capacity-building; in the most needed regions and countries, in particular the least developed countries, especially in Africa;

4. Takes note of the elaboration of a strategic plan as a means of enhancing the management of the United Nations Development Programme and making operational the Initiatives for change and looks forward to presentation to the Executive Board at its first meeting in 1996, in preparation for final decision at the annual meeting in 1996, of a further elaborated concise version, including, inter alia, the following elements:

(a) A concise mission statement drawing together all the essential functions of the United Nations Development Programme in the light of the goals and priority areas in decision 94/14;

(b) A clear hierarchy of operational objectives designed to translate the mission of the United Nations Development Programme into action;

(c) A comprehensive action plan, incorporating time-bound indicators of achievement and a system for reporting progress regularly to the Executive Board.

16 June 1995

95/23. Successor programming arrangements

The Executive Board

I. PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROGRAMMING CYCLE 1/

1. Reaffirms the principles of eligibility of all recipient countries on the basis of the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations development system, which are, inter alia, universality, neutrality, multilateralism, the voluntary and grant nature of assistance and the capacity to respond to the needs of all recipient countries in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development; and in this context, recognizes the principles of United Nations Development Programme activities, which include progressivity, impartiality, transparency and predictability of flow of resources for all recipient countries, in particular, developing countries;

2. Stresses the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries;

3. Recognizes that the development cooperation of the United Nations system requires flexibility and transparency for augmenting the availability of resources and efficiency in their allocation, and that the United Nations Development Programme continues to give priority to least developed countries and low-income countries, particularly in Africa, and utilizes the resources, consistent with decision 94/14, in support of and in accordance with the development priorities established by the recipient countries themselves, keeping in mind the need to create incentives so as to achieve greater impact and effectiveness of the programmes and projects of the United Nations Development Programme;

4. Decides to improve the focus and concentration of the programme activities of the United Nations Development Programme by implementing the three

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1/ Discussions leading to the adoption of the present decision were based on information made available to the Executive Board in documents DP/1994/20; DP/1994/39; DP/1994/59; DP/1995/3; DP/1995/15; and DP/1995/32.

goals and four priority areas specified in Executive Board decision 94/14, 2/ recognizing in particular that poverty elimination should be the central priority of the activities of the Programme, taking into account the further clarification and refinement of the role of the Programme as set out in decision 95/22 on the future of the United Nations Development Programme;

5. Emphasizes that national development priorities shall be the primary determinant of United Nations Development Programme-supported programmes, which must remain country driven; and that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for the formulation of cooperation frameworks with the United Nations Development Programme;

6. Stresses the role of the United Nations Development Programme as a country-based operational programme, and in this context, stresses further the need to improve the operational function of the resident coordinator at the country level in close collaboration with the Government concerned, and to enhance the decentralization of authority to the field level in order to maximize the impact of the United Nations system in the development process;

II. MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

7. Decides to adopt for planning purposes the initial figure of $3.3 billion for core resources for the three-year period starting in 1997 and requests the Administrator to take all necessary measures to secure at least those estimated financial resources;

8. Stresses that increasing voluntary contributions to the core resources should remain the central effort of all donors, in particular traditional donors, and of the mobilization efforts of the Administrator, who should aim at widening the resource base, including by bringing in new donors as core contributors;

9. Also recognizes the importance of non-core resources, including cost-sharing and non-traditional sources of financing, as a mechanism to enhance the capacity and supplement the means of the United Nations Development Programme to achieve the goals and priorities as specified in decision 94/14;

10. Urges the Administrator to explore further non-traditional sources of financing, such as multilateral and regional banks and non-governmental organizations, in order to mobilize additional resources for the Programme;

2/ The three goals endorsed in decision 94/14 are: strengthening international cooperation for sustainable human development; helping the United Nations family to become a unified and powerful force for human development; and focusing United Nations Development Programme resources on making the maximum contribution in its programme countries to key sustainable human development dimensions.

The four areas endorsed in decision 94/14 are: poverty elimination, job creation, environmental regeneration and the advancement of women.

III. PROGRAMMING ARRANGEMENTS

11. Accepts in principle the three-year rolling planning scheme as proposed in document DP/1995/32;

12. Decides that the new country cooperation frameworks (country programmes) be developed by recipient Governments in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme and that they be submitted to the Executive Board for endorsement; also decides to consider further, at its first regular session 1996, the involvement of the Board in programming processes and procedures;

13. Recognizes the link between the cooperation frameworks and the national development plans and strategies of recipient countries, as well as with the country strategy note developed by interested countries, as a general framework for international cooperation for development, based on the fact that the Government has the primary responsibility for coordinating all types of assistance in accordance with national priorities and strategies;

14. Decides that the formulation of cooperation frameworks should be in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199 and in particular the emphasis on the programme approach, national execution and improved mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation;

IV. FINANCING MECHANISM

15. Decides to introduce a new, more flexible three-tier target for resource assignment from the core scheme for the allocation of resources to the country level;

16. Decides that criteria determining the eligibility for support from the United Nations Development Programme should be the same for all programmable core resources;

17. Endorses the earmarkings set out in the accompanying table 3/ for the United Nations Development Programme core resources;

18. Decides on the following basic guidelines for the allocation of resources under line 1.1.2 in paragraph 13 of the present decision:

(a) As indicated by the Administrator, a presumption that given the availability of good programmes, for initial planning purposes the amount allocated to a country under line 1.1.2 will be roughly comparable in proportional terms (as indicated in the accompanying table) to what it receives under line 1.1.1;

(b) The process of resource allocation should be transparent and conform to the general poverty orientation reflected in the allocation to the low-income countries and the least developed countries contained in paragraph 24 of the present decision, as well as to reflect the same regional distribution as for line 1.1.1;

3/ The individual shares of the total resources set out in the table will be applied to total available resources during the period 1997/1999, except for those in lines 2.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2, which are subject to further deliberations in connection with the submission of the biennial budget estimates to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1995.

	Earmarkings during fifth cycle $	Earmarkings during fifth cycle %	Proposed percentage earmarkings for next period %
	(millions)		
1.0 Programmes/projects			
Country			
1.1 Target for resource assignments from core (TRAC)			
1.1.1 Assigned immediately to countries	526	53.5	30.0
1.1.2 Assigned regionally for subsequent country application	-	-	20.0
1.1.3 Resources for development in countries in special situations	13	1.3	5.0
	539	54.8	55.0
Intercountry			
1.2 Regional	56	5.7	7.6
1.3 Global, interregional and special activities	25	2.5	4.2
	81	8.2	11.8
Other			
1.4 Evaluation	1	0.1	0.3
1.5 Special resources for TCDC activities	2	0.2	0.5
1.6 Resources for implementation	55	5.6	3.0
	58	5.9	3.8
Subtotal	678	68.9	70.6
2.0 Programme development and technical services			
2.1 UNDP programme support and development activities (PSDA)	33	3.3	3.0
2.2 United Nations systems support for policy and programme development (SPPD)	16	1.6	2.0
2.3 Technical support services from United Nations specialized agencies	11	1.1	1.6
2.4 Other	35	3.5	-
Subtotal	95	9.5	6.6
3.0 Support to United Nations system and aid coordination			
3.1 Programme support to the resident coordinator/ aid coordinator	-	-	1.7
3.2 Support to United Nations operational activities	43	4.4	4.3
Subtotal	43	4.4	6.0
4.0 Biennial budget			
4.1 UNDP headquarters	70	7.1	6.8
4.2 UNDP country offices	100	10.1	10.0
Subtotal	170	17.2	16.8
Total	986	100.0	100.0

(c) The programming arrangements for line 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 will be the same;

(d) The need to ensure that countries with limited capacity for programme formulation benefit fully from line 1.1.2 by, inter alia, strengthening their capacity for programme design and implementation in order to enhance their access to this line;

(e) The need for countries with allocations of less than $300,000 annually under line 1.1.1 to retain a minimum critical mass of resources through allocations in line 1.1.2 that are in accordance with their eligibility for such resources;

(f) The importance of programme quality, including the degree to which programme proposals are aimed at promoting high-leverage activities in the sustainable human development focus areas contained in decision 94/14, particularly poverty elimination; and the enabling environment required for that objective;

(g) Assignments of resources under line 1.1.1 and line 1.1.2 will be dealt with simultaneously while recognizing the importance of ensuring that programmes financed under line 1.1.2 respond to national development programmes and strategies;

(h) The need to address special needs and opportunities for capacity-building that may emerge in individual countries;

(i) The need to promote policy dialogue on United Nations Development Programme resource allocation as well as to ensure close collaboration between Governments, resident representatives and the Programme in making resource allocation decisions;

(j) The need to develop increased capacity at all levels in the United Nations Development Programme for the management of programmes;

(k) The need to increase the authority of the resident representative to approve programmes and projects at the country level with the participation of the Government concerned, and the accountability of the resident representative for such projects and programmes;

19. Decides to allocate an additional 0.5 per cent of total resources for the Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States region, given the special needs of the countries with economies in transition. The resources required shall be obtained as follows: 0.2 per cent from line 1.2; 0.15 per cent from line 2.2; 0.15 per cent from line 2.3;

20. Authorizes the Administrator, taking note of conclusion 95/6 of the Programme and Budget Committee of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization at its eleventh session, to allocate an amount of $3 million for the year 1997, on a one-time, exceptional basis, to facilitate the smooth phase-out of the United Nations Development Programme funding for the UNIDO Country Director Programme and to enable the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to maintain its essential services in support of programme priorities of the United Nations Development Programme in the field during its 1996-1997 biennial budget cycle;

V. DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

21. Approves the methodology for the distribution of resources for country programmes as described in paragraphs 74 and 75 of document DP/1995/32, including the following features, as indicated in section V of document DP/1995/32: gross national product per capita and total population, using existing weights and 1994 data (or latest estimates thereof); elimination of supplementary points; increased graduation thresholds; adjusted floors; 4/ and an appropriate bonus rate for least developed countries in line with the requirements mentioned in paragraph 24;

22. Takes note of the resource distribution set out in table 4, column 6 of document DP/1995/32, recognizing that these are preliminary estimates which will be updated using 1994 data; and requests that the final target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC) figures under line 1.1.1 for individual recipient countries be provided to the Executive Board at its first regular session 1996;

23. Decides that countries exceeding graduation thresholds during any year of the next cycle will continue to be recipients for a period of three years following that year and that their target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC) will be phased out progressively during those years;

24. Decides that the Administrator, as a goal, should ensure that 88 per cent of all targets for resource assignments from the core will be allocated to the low-income countries and 60 per cent to the least developed countries, and urges the Administrator to take account of these goals in all UNDP programme activities;

25. Authorizes the Administrator during the programming period, to revise authorized programming levels upwards or downwards on a proportionate basis, should estimates of resource availability exceed or fall short of the target set out in paragraph 7 of the present decision;

26. Requests the Administrator to report annually on the management of the programming arrangements and on the actual resource assignments made to each country to the Executive Board for appropriate action;

VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD REVIEW

27. Decides to apply the present decision during the period July 1995 through June 1997 for the programming of activities for the years 1997 onwards to enable the Administrator to implement the initiatives for change and support national endeavours towards poverty elimination and the achievement of sustainable human development;

28. Requests the Administrator to submit to the Executive Board at its annual session 1996 an interim report on the implementation of the programming arrangements. This report shall contain information on activities undertaken, the amount of financial resources involved, and the justification for activities undertaken under lines 1.1.2 and 1.1.3;

4/ These are 90 per cent for countries where gross national product per capita is less than $750; 80 per cent for countries where gross national product per capita is between $750-$1,500; 70 per cent for countries where gross national product per capita is between $1,500-$4,700; and 60 per cent for countries where gross national product per capita exceeds $4,700.

29. Decides to carry out a full-scale review of the introductory period July 1995 to June 1997 for the purpose of assessing experience and determining such changes as may be necessary to the successor programming arrangements.

16 June 1995

95/24. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 1995

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 1995 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 1995 (DP/1995/L.3);

Approved the report of the second regular session 1995 (DP/1995/16);

Approved the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

Third regular session 1995: 11-15 September 1995

First regular session 1996: 16-19 January 1996

Second regular session 1996: 25-29 March 1996

Annual session 1996: June 1996

Third regular session 1996: 9-13 September 1996

Agreed to the subjects to be discussed at these sessions as listed in the annex;

ITEM 2: UNFPA: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Took note of the annual report of the Executive Director for 1994 (DP/1995/24/Part I);

Adopted decision 95/14 of 8 June 1995 on the implementation of decision 94/25: Assistance to Rwanda;

Adopted decision 95/15 of 14 June 1995 on programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in light of the ICPD;

Adopted decision 95/16 of 8 June 1995 on UNFPA work plan for 1996-1999 and request for programme expenditure authority;

Adopted decision 95/20 of 14 June 1995 on UNFPA: Institutional arrangements;

Adopted decision 95/21 of 14 June 1995 on the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s;

Took note of the report on the status of financial implementation of country programmes and projects (DP/1995/27);

ITEM 3: UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Approved the increased funding authority for the country programme for Namibia (DP/1995/28);

ITEM 4: UNDP and UNFPA: REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Adopted decision 95/17 of 8 June 1995 on UNFPA/UNDP reports to the Economic and Social Council: Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199;

Took note of the report of the Executive Director of UNFPA (DP/1995/24/Part III) and the report of the Administrator of UNDP (DP/1995/30/Add.3) on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and to the World Summit on Social Development and decided to transmit them, together with the comments of the Board, to the Economic and Social Council;

ITEM 5: UNDP/UNFPA: HARMONIZATION OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGETS AND ACCOUNTS

Took note of the UNDP/UNFPA report on harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts with the comments made therein (DP/1995/29);

ITEM 6: UNDP: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS

Took note of the annual report of the Administrator for 1994: introduction (DP/1995/30); main programme record (DP/1995/30/Add.1); statistical annex (DP/1995/30/Add.2); reports of the Joint Inspection Unit of interest to UNDP (DP/1995/30/Add.4); and subcontracts awarded and major equipment ordered (DP/1995/30/Add.5);

Took note of the report on the role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (DP/1995/35);

ITEM 7: FUTURE OF UNDP: IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION 94/14

Adopted decision 95/22 of 16 June 1995 on Initiatives for change;

ITEM 8: UNDP: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Adopted decision 95/23 of 16 June 1995 on the successor programming arrangements;

ITEM 9: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

Adopted decision 95/18 of 14 June 1995 on the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

ITEM 10: UNDP: TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Adopted decision 95/19 of 14 June 1995 on technical cooperation among developing countries;

Took note of the report of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session (DP/1995/L.5);

ITEM 11: UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Took note of the report on the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/1995/37);

ITEM 12: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Took note of the report on the Human Development Report (DP/1995/34);

ITEM 13: OTHER MATTERS

Took note of the change of name from the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to "Office to Combat Desertification and Drought" while keeping the acronym "UNSO" in all languages.

16 June 1995

Annex

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS

The following subjects are scheduled to be considered at future sessions:

Third regular session (11-15 September 1995)

Item 1. Organizational matters (including follow-up to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council)

UNFPA segment

Item 2. Report on the implementation of UNFPA successor support cost arrangements

Item 3. Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements

Item 4. Intercountry and country programmes

- Intercountry programme
- Country programmes

Item 5. Financial and budgetary matters

- Annual financial review, 1994
- Biennial budget proposals for 1996-1997
- Report of ACABQ on budget estimates

UNFPA/UNDP joint segment

Item 6. UNDP/UNFPA: Field visits 1995

Item 7. HIV/AIDS

UNDP segment

Item 8. Country programmes and related matters

- Mid-term reviews of regional programmes
- First country programme for Azerbaijan
- First country programme for Russia
- Fifth country programme for Haiti
- Fifth country programme for Rwanda: Note by the Administrator
- Fifth country programme for Burundi: Note by the Administrator

Item 9. Matters relating to the programming cycles

- Haiti's development needs and activities (95/4, para. 2)

Item 10. Agency support costs (91/32)

Item 11. Financial and budgetary matters

- Annual review of the financial situation 1994 (95/3, para. 7)
- Revised budget estimates for the 1994-1995 biennium and budget estimates for the 1996-1997 biennium
- Report of ACABQ on the budget estimates
- Audited accounts and audit reports of the executing agencies as at 31 December 1993
- Audit reports: Summary of significant observations of the external auditors of the executing agencies on the 1993 account relating to funds allocated to them by UNDP

Item 12. Procurement from developing countries

Item 13. United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical cooperation expenditures

Item 14. United Nations Development Fund for Women

Item 15. Other matters

First regular session (16-19 January 1996)

- Organizational matters (including election of Bureau and rules of procedure)

UNDP segment

- Matters relating to the programming cycles
- Initiatives for change: Follow-up to decision 95/22
- Country programmes and related matters
- United Nations technical cooperation activities
- Proposed revisions to UNDP financial regulations and rules related to support cost arrangements

UNDP/UNFPA joint segment

- Follow-up to and preparations for the Economic and Social Council
- Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts (94/30)

UNFPA segment

- Strategy for allocation of UNFPA resources
- Future role of UNFPA regarding contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs
- Draft mission statement of UNFPA
- Background note on possible membership of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board in the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy
- Country programme and related matters

Second regular session (25-29 March 1996)

- Organizational matters

UNFPA segment

- Country programmes

UNFPA/UNDP segment

UNDP segment

- Country programmes and related matters
- Evaluation
- United Nations Volunteers

Annual session (June 1996)

- Organizational matters

UNDP segment

- Annual report of the Administrator and related matters
- Matters relating to the programming cycles

UNDP/UNFPA segment

- Reports to the Economic and Social Council

UNFPA segment

- Report of the Executive Director and programme-level activities
  - Report on the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (part of annual report)
- Periodic report on evaluation

- Work plan
- Status of financial implementation of country programmes and projects

Third regular session (9-13 September 1996)

- Organizational matters

UNFPA segment

UNFPA/UNDP segment

- Reports on field visits

UNDP segment

- Matters relating to programming cycles
- Country programmes and related matters
- Agency support costs
- Financial and budgetary matters

Part two

IV. UNFPA/UNDP: REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199

1. In his introduction, the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support of UNDP outlined a number of policy, programme and administrative measures taken by the organization during the past year to implement General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199. Action had been taken at two levels: first, individually by UNDP on provisions of the resolutions that had a direct bearing on the work of the organization, such as the programme approach, national execution, decentralization and delegation of authority, common training, and the country strategy note (CSN); and secondly, in conjunction with partner organizations through the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) and the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) on aspects of the resolution that had implications for the United Nations development system as a whole, such as the resident coordinator system, harmonization of programming cycles and common premises and services.

2. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of UNFPA, in his introduction, noted the close linkage between the Fund's Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise and the programme approach. He said the PRSD exercise included a comprehensive analysis of the country's population situation and ensured that all those active in the population field in a particular country were consulted during the strategy-development process. The UNFPA technical support services/country support team system was instrumental in the process, providing the necessary technical and analytical guidance at the country level. He noted that the Fund made increasing use of national execution, as well as of national expertise whenever available. Inadequate national capacity and financial reporting were among the problems the Fund had encountered in national execution. The Fund continued efforts to decentralize project approval authority to the field and had extended total programme approval authority, on a trial basis, to 12 countries.

3. Several delegations noted the substantial progress made by both organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199. The common format of the reports was welcomed.

4. The interest shown and work accomplished on the CSN was particularly encouraging. One delegation asked if a common format could be developed for the CSNs. Some speakers, while supporting the principle of the CSN and citing its usefulness as a tool for strengthening the resident coordinator system, sought assurances that its preparation would remain a national choice, as intended by the General Assembly. One delegation questioned its value to countries with low indicative planning figures. Another asked for a progress report on the formulation of the CSN at the country level, as a means of examining the usefulness of the process. UNFPA was asked if the CSN had helped it to integrate population strategies at the country level.

5. Delegations sought specific information on the role of the United Nations Office for Project Services in national execution. With reference to UNFPA, several delegations sought clarification on the role of specialized agencies in national execution following the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

6. Further information was also sought about the use of the resident coordinator system and experience with the programme approach, especially with regard to the underdelivery associated with the mechanism in one country.

7. The efforts of both organizations in decentralization were supported, with some speakers asking for assurances on accountability.

8. The agreement reached by JCGP on widening the pool for resident coordinator appointments was appreciated. It was hoped that contributing organizations would put their best candidates forward. A question was raised as to how organizations contributing to the pool ensured a smooth transition for returning staff.

9. Other comments related to the prospects for strengthening databases within UNDP for new recipient countries, encouragement of a more strategic role for the Executive Board in the country programming process, noting the action taken by the UNICEF Executive Board in that regard, and a request for a compilation and examination of local costs, including local services.

10. Several delegations noted the lack of reference to monitoring and evaluation in the UNDP document. Moreover, more substantive reporting was asked for the future, particularly with regard to problems faced in implementation of the resolutions, especially at the country level. In order for the Economic and Social Council to provide guidance to UNDP and UNFPA, it was also suggested that in the future, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF consider drawing up one common report, perhaps through the JCGP.

11. In response to the points raised, the Assistant Administrator informed the Executive Board that over 40 per cent of resident representatives had experience with other United Nations organizations during their career. He regretted that no special reference was being made to evaluation and monitoring but noted that some progress had been made in terms of harmonization of evaluation and monitoring among United Nations organizations. A detailed account on progress within those fields was included in the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council. He also informed the Board about the efforts presently being undertaken within UNDP to develop an efficient information management system, one obvious precondition for a successful decentralization process within the organization.

12. Concerning the role of specialized agencies in support of national execution, the Deputy executive Director (Programme) of UNFPA explained that the Fund's Technical Support Services/Country Support Team system was the primary vehicle for providing technical assistance at the country level. He said the system was required to use national experts to the extent possible. If such experts were not available, the Fund made use of the expertise available on the UNFPA Country Support Teams, which were made up of specialists from throughout the United Nations system. He said that UNFPA had adopted an incremental approach to decentralization in order to ensure accountability, gradually raising the delegated project approval authority to its current level of $750,000. The Fund monitored the results at each stage to see that accountability had been maintained. UNFPA also relied on mid-term reviews to ensure accountability. The Fund's experience with the CSN had in general been positive and UNFPA was in the process of determining how best to link the programme review and strategy development exercise with the CSN exercise.

13. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

95/17. UNFPA/UNDP: Reports to the Economic and Social Council: Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199

The Executive Board

1. Transmits the reports from the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council together with the comments of the Executive Board;

2. Requests the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to ensure that future reports on the implementation of the triennial policy review address more thoroughly problems and opportunities that have been identified, particularly at the field level, and contain any appropriate recommendations and requests for guidance from the Executive Board;

3. Further requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, together with the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, to consider producing a common report on the implementation of the triennial policy review for both the UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF Executive Boards, which should contain both a common section and sections by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, respectively.

8 June 1995

B. Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit on Social Development

14. The Executive Board decided to hold one discussion on these two sections of the item. Several delegations expressed overall satisfaction with the reports while some asked for more substance and information on problems faced, for which the Economic and Social Council could provide guidance. Others underlined the key role of the General Assembly and Council in defining the responsibilities of the organizations in follow-up to ICPD and the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD). One speaker asked whether there was any duplication between UNDP and UNFPA in the follow-up to ICPD. Discussion specific to UNFPA and UNDP, respectively, follows.

1. United Nations Population Fund

15. The Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services) of UNFPA pointed out in his introduction to document DP/1995/24 (Part III) that one of the primary concerns of UNFPA in the follow-up to ICPD was to adjust its country programmes to bring them better in line with the ICPD Programme of Action. He noted the progress made by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and its working groups. He further noted that, as proposed by the Commission on Population and Development at its twenty-eighth session, UNFPA would be responsible for reporting, on an annual basis, on programme experience in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action at the country level. He reiterated the UNFPA intention to cooperate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, taking into account the earlier comments made by members of the Executive Board on that issue. With regard to the follow-up to the WSSD, he said that UNFPA was pleased that the WSSD Programme of Action had endorsed the goals of the ICPD.

At the international level, the Fund would continue to work to further develop the 20/20 concept, in close collaboration with UNDP and UNICEF and within the framework as adopted in Copenhagen. He pledged UNFPA support for the development of a broad United Nations system-wide framework for the follow-up to all major international conferences and informed the Executive Board of efforts under way in the United Nations system on the issue.

16. Most delegations welcomed UNFPA efforts in the follow-up to ICPD and WSSD, and in particular its coordinating role in the follow-up to ICPD. Many delegations also stressed the importance of inter-agency collaboration and the comparative advantages of each organization in the follow-up to both conferences.

17. On the issue of a separate executive board for UNFPA, several delegations noted that the matter would be further discussed at the Economic and Social Council in June/July 1995. One delegation commented that the report on the follow-up to ICPD did not refer to General Assembly resolution 49/127 on international migration and development. He also questioned the reference in the report on the follow-up to the ICPD to draft document E/CN.9/1995/L.3/Add.1 on the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development, noting that the draft document did not properly reflect the provisions spelled out in General Assembly resolution 49/128 on the renaming of the Commission.

18. The Deputy Executive Director (Technical Services) thanked the members of the Executive Board for their constructive comments on the reports. He noted that the lack of substance in the reports was due primarily to problems of timing and planning, but added that the UNFPA report should be read in conjunction with document DP/1995/25 on programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in light of the ICPD. He expected the reports of the four working groups of the inter-agency task force to be available by the time the Economic and Social Council met in June/July 1995. He informed the Executive Board that a separate report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 19/127 would be submitted to the Council in June/July 1995, prepared for the Secretary-General by the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. He also reiterated the UNFPA commitment to cooperate fully with the other United Nations agencies and organizations in the follow-up to ICPD and WSSD.

2. United Nations Development Programme

19. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), in introducing document DP/1995/30/Add.3, underlined the importance to UNDP inherent in the outcomes of the ICPD and the WSSD and outlined measures that were being taken by UNDP in that regard. He stressed that all three United Nations Conferences - the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, IPCD and WSSD - did provide a lot of new insight as regarded the need for a new approach to development; the need for integration of environmental concerns into economies; the importance of empowering women and of providing education to girls; the need to rethink conventional models of economic growth so as to pay more attention to the needs of the poor.

20. UNDP had prepared an action plan for ICPD follow-up, he continued, which highlighted its role in helping to move the Cairo outcome into mainstream policy dialogue and to take account of the development implication of population dynamics. Follow-up actions included the following: in-house review of policies and programmes to bring them in line with the recommendations of the

ICPD Programme of Action; training and sensitization of UNDP staff on the messages emerging from the Conference; active participation in the ICPD Inter-Agency Task Force; joint agency follow-up initiatives; and articulation of ICPD follow-up with that of other major and recent United Nations conferences. With regard to the follow-up to WSSD, he outlined the explicit responsibilities assigned to UNDP by the WSSD Programme of Action. He emphasized that the work of UNDP would be demand-driven and tailored to local needs. A strategy paper entitled "From poverty to equity", which emphasized the need to make the follow-up to WSSD the organization's main focus, had been sent to all resident representatives. Another paper entitled "Beyond Copenhagen" was also available.

21. With regard to the role of UNDP in follow-up to ICPD, one delegation, on behalf of others, emphasized the need for UNDP to integrate population issues fully into its development strategy, with coordination at the country level through the resident coordinator. UNDP was also asked to cooperate fully with the Population Division of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis in carrying out the work related to the Commission on Population and Development.

22. One speaker noted that the follow-up to WSSD could be an occasion for UNDP to clarify further its priorities and sharpen its focus. Another commented that UNDP should continue to concentrate on poverty eradication, particularly in helping countries to formulate national strategies against poverty. One delegation suggested that UNDP report back to the Executive Board on follow-up to WSSD at the first regular session of 1996.

23. The Associate Administrator, in response, said plans for follow-up to the two conferences fitted well into the four focus areas of UNDP and thus would be integrated into existing programmes. He reiterated that the outcomes of both ICPD and WSSD were of vital importance to the future work of UNDP. He explained that document DP/1995/30/Add.3 had been produced well in advance of the Executive Board's annual session and therefore did not include all details of recent action taken, as did the two papers mentioned above. However, supplementary materials were now available to delegations. In his view, UNDP had a specific comparative advantage in the follow-up to WSSD in view of its mandate for sustainable human development and intersectoral focus, particularly in providing support for the creation of macroeconomic frameworks, governance, national strategies for poverty eradication, government participatory mechanisms, credit schemes, and sustainable livelihoods. In response to a request for further information about the inter-agency task forces referred to in the report, he explained that the Secretary-General would introduce the proposal at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council for 1995 during the coordination segment since it was part of his own report, to which UNDP had given inputs.

24. The Executive Board took note of sections II and III of the reports to the Economic and Social Council (DP/1995/24/Part III and DP/1995/30/Add.3) and transmitted them, together with the comments of the Board, to the Economic and Social Council.